

**Town Manager's Office
Town of Mansfield**

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: July 22, 2013
Re: Town Manager's Report

Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

Departmental Reports

- *Town Manager's Office*
 - *Governor and Commissioner Prague to visit Mansfield Senior Center* - Governor Dannel Malloy and Commissioner of Department on Aging Edith Prague are visiting area senior centers and will be paying the Mansfield Senior Center a visit this Thursday, July 25, 2013 at 12:30 PM. Council members are certainly welcome to attend.
 - *New date for public hearing on Hillside Road extension project* - Item #9 of the Council packet refers to a public hearing that the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) plans to conduct regarding UConn's Hillside Road extension project. DEEP has rescheduled the hearing, and the related site visit and evidentiary hearing as follows:
 - 9/10/13 – Site visit, 1:00 PM
 - 9/10/13 – Public hearing, 6:00 PM. Hearing on application for inland wetlands and diversion permits related to the extension of North Hillside Road.
 - 9/11/13 – Evidentiary Hearing, 9:30 AM. Evidentiary Hearing on application for inland wetlands and diversion permits for the extension of North Hillside Road.
 - *Extension of FY 2010/11 Open Space Bond* – At the May 28, 2013 meeting, I distributed a legal opinion from the Town's bond counsel outlining the application of the lapse provisions of the Town Charter to \$1,040,000 Open Space Bond approved by the voters in FY 2010/11. I explained at that meeting bond counsel's opinion that an expenditure or encumbrance issued against the appropriation would prevent the appropriation from lapsing. Based upon direction that I have received from the Town Council, I would like to confirm that I have authorized the encumbrance of \$4,000 to pay for the cost of an appraisal for one or more properties that the Town Council is interested in acquiring as open space. This encumbrance will prevent the FY 2010/11 open space bond from lapsing until June 30, 2016.

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *Storrs Center*
 - *Construction Update* – Construction of One Royce Circle is nearing completion. The residents of The Oaks on the Square, whose apartments are on the upper four floors, are scheduled to move in in mid-August. On the first floor, each commercial tenant has a unique schedule, and the businesses will open as they are ready throughout the fall. The streetscape enhancements of Storrs Road should be completed within the next two weeks; the new trees and landscaping create a more pleasing environment for pedestrians along Storrs Road. The paving of Bolton Road Extension and Royce Circle, which has started, will take place over the next few weeks. Bolton Road will connect with Bolton Road Extension to create the main, four-way, lighted intersection into Storrs Center. Traffic will be able to head north or south on Storrs Road from this intersection, and Bolton Road Extension and Royce Circle will form the remaining perimeters of the Town Square, the design of which is in progress. Questions may be directed to the Mansfield Downtown Partnership (storrscenterinfo@mansfieldct.org or 860.429.2740). The Partnership continues to maintain a construction website for updates at <http://storrscenterconstruction.blogspot.com>.

- *Grant Award* – Governor Dannel P. Malloy has announced that the Town of Mansfield has received a \$500,000 Main Street Investment grant for use in the enhancement of the public spaces in Storrs Center. “Main Street Investment grants play an important role in strengthening economic development initiatives on the local level,” said Governor Malloy. “This program is unique in that it builds a working partnership between state government and the smaller communities that are striving to strengthen their commercial centers and attract additional business.” The Main Street Investment Fund provides financial incentives to eligible municipalities as well as owners of commercial private properties for expenditures that directly support and enhance a qualified project. Mansfield’s grant funding will be used for decorative street lights and street trees on Dog Lane, Royce Circle, and Wilbur Cross Way; sidewalk planters on Dog Lane, tree planters for the Town Square, decorative concrete pavement in the Royce Circle and Wilbur Cross Way bump-outs, and way-finding signage for the Phase 1A and the Town Square. Storrs Center Alliance plans to use funds for façade improvements on the buildings at 1 Dog Lane and 9 Dog Lane.

Special Events

- *Water Forum* - The League of Women Voters of Northeastern Connecticut (formerly the League of Women Voters of Mansfield) and the Connecticut Institute of Water Resources are cosponsoring an educational water forum on Monday, July 29, 2013, from 7:00 – 9:00 PM, in the lower level of the Elks Lodge, 198 Pleasant St. in Willimantic. The purpose of the event, titled “Regional Water: Where Is It? Who Uses It? Who Decides?” is to promote understanding of local water resources and how their use relates to regional planning for water and economic development. There will be three panel discussions: Regional Water Resources, Regional Water Systems, and Water, Economic Development and Regional Planning. Panelists include water experts from the University of Connecticut, representatives from Windham Water Works, CT Water Company and UCONN, and members of the economic development commissions of Windham, Tolland and Mansfield. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, see the website for the League of Women Voters of Northeast CT, <http://www.lwvmansfieldct.org>, or email: patricia.bresnahan@gmail.com.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Traffic Authority, July 23, 2013, 10:30 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, July 30, 2013, 9:30 AM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors, August 1, 2013, 4:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Agriculture Committee, August 6, 2013, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Parking Steering Committee, August 7, 2013, 5:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, August 7, 2013, 5:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Housing Code Board of Appeals, August 12, 2013, 5:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Finance Committee, August 12, 2013, 6:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, August 12, 2013, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

**Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the [Town Calendar](#) or contact the Town Clerk’s Office at 860-429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*